

In Memoriam :

THE REV. WILLIAM FORSYTH, M.A., D.D.

Born 1825.

Died 1907.

DR. FORSYTH, an esteemed Honorary Member of the Club, died at the Manse of Abernethy, Strathspey, on 27th April, 1907. He was born at the Dell of Abernethy, and graduated at King's College in 1843. Three years later he was ordained to the church of Ardersier, where he ministered for seven years. In 1853 he was translated to Dornoch, and in 1863 he became minister of his native parish. Both in Ardersier and in Dornoch the young clergyman acquired a reputation, not only by his devotion to ministerial duties, but for his uncommon sagacity and unbending integrity. His grasp of affairs was remarkable, and was specially manifested in the action he took during the potato famine of 1846 and the cholera visitation of 1849, and in his successful dealing with educational matters in both northern parishes.

The education of the young was indeed a subject to him of special interest, and his influence as an educationist was felt far beyond the united parishes of Abernethy and Kin-cardine, of the School Board of which he was for many years Chairman. He also served as Chairman of the Parochial Board, and latterly of the Parish Council, and was also a County Councillor, and a member of the Inverness-shire Secondary Education Committee. He was a frequent contributor to religious periodicals, and now and again favoured our Journal with an article that much increased the Club's knowledge of its titular mountain. As a writer, however, he will be best remembered for the history he wrote of his native parish, "In the Shadow of Cairngorm," published in 1900, and reviewed at considerable length in our third volume.

The University of Aberdeen conferred on him in 1889 the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Divinity. He celebrated his diamond jubilee last October, when parishioners and friends

made him and Mrs. Forsyth a handsome presentation, as stated at page 229 of the present volume.

Dr. Forsyth was a notable man, and no less lovable. Naturally he was adored by his parishioners, and as years wore on was venerated by a wide circle of friends far beyond Strathspey. Much learning and the varied experiences of a long busy life had widened both his knowledge and his interests, but withal, the simplicity of his character was outstanding. It was to him, as he said, a delight to tell of bygone days, and

“To speak of you, ye mountains and ye lakes,
And sounding cataracts, ye mists and winds,
That dwell among the hills where I was born.”

JAMES SHEARER.

Born 1836.

Died 1907.

JAMES SHEARER, a humble member, but one of our most lovable, died at Cairnie on 9th May, 1907. He began life as a herd-boy, ultimately becoming a shoemaker. A man of many parts, he was a total abstainer, had deep religious feelings, though not rigid in sect; was a bee-master of some authority; a church precentor for several years; and a regular correspondent to the *Banffshire Journal* since 1866. In his younger days he attended the meetings of the Keith Mutual Improvement Society; in later years many a long walk he took to be present at discussions of the Huntly Field Club. The recently issued “History of Cairnie” is not a little indebted to him for information.

No member better enjoyed the Club's Excursions than James Shearer, and frequently he put himself to no small trouble to attend them. His fellow-members much enjoyed his company; his presence was welcomed by all. A love of nature and a passion for the hills made him kin with those he counted his “betters,” but he often marvelled at the terms of equality on which he was invariably received. He is survived by two married daughters, to whom the Club begs to extend its sympathy.